THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
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Fantastic Four
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
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WHEN CALLS GALACTUS!

Gigantic Art Mural Offer!

WHITE STALLION IN THE MOONLIGHT — Luman Winter

Magnificent Original Oil Painting Reproduced In Full Color As Giant Decorator Mural

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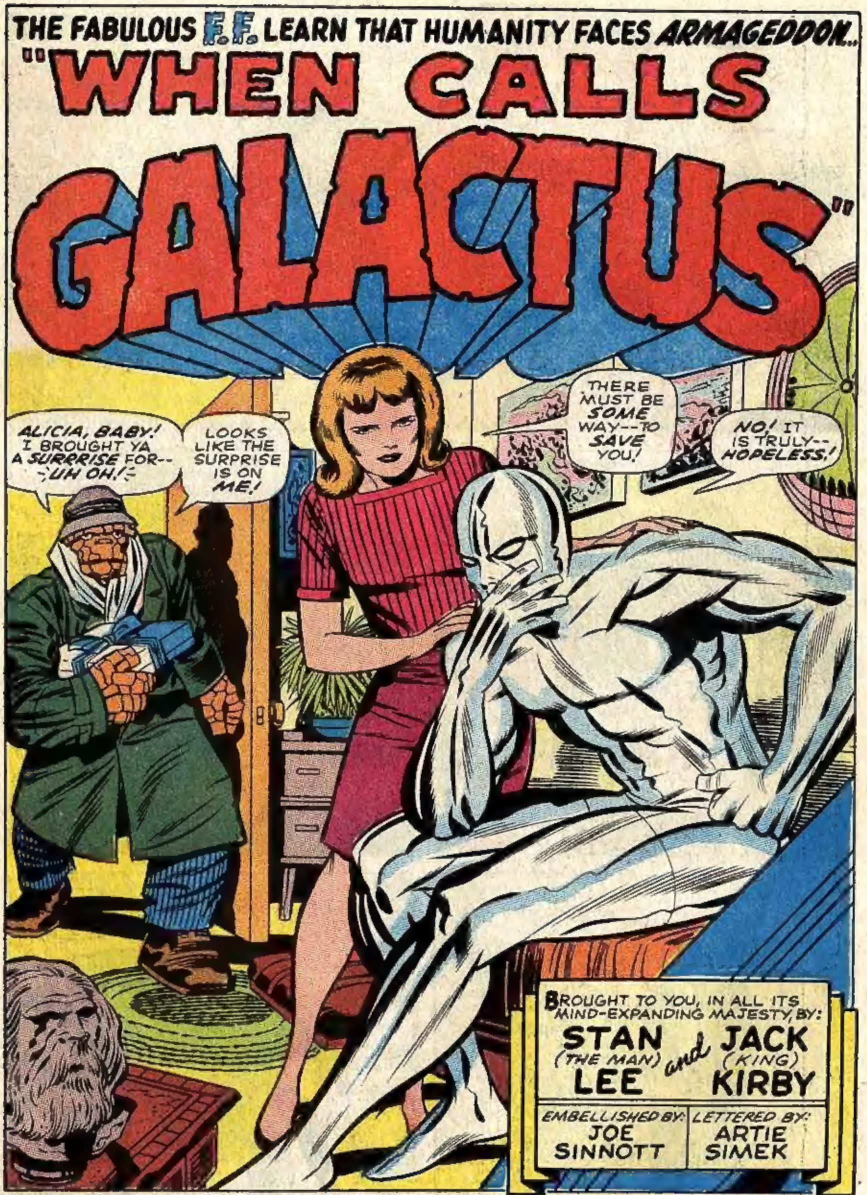

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BEN, DEAR--IS THAT YOU?
YEAH! 'N I'LL BET YER JUST TICKLED PINK ABOUT IT!
I DIDN'T KNOW I WUZ BUSTIN' UP A PARTY!
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK, DARLING! THE SURFER NEEDS HELP!
I HAVE NO TIME FOR EARTHLY SMALL TALK!
FOR, I HAVE BEEN SUMMONED ONCE AGAIN--BY MY FORMER MASTER--GALACTUS!
YOU AINT TALKIN' TO NO KID, DOME HEAD!
EVERYONE KNOWS HE EXILED YA HERE--FOREVER!
NO, BEN! YOU MUST BELIEVE HIM!
HE'S TELLING YOU THE TRUTH! I KNOW IT!
NUTS! I'M THRU KIDDIN' MYSELF!
YOU'D BELIEVE ANYTHING HE TELLS YA!
SO GO AHEAD --BELIEVE 'IM! BE MY GUEST!
BUT--IF IT IS TRUE--THINK WHAT IT MEANS!!
YEAH, YEAH! IT MEANS I GIVE HIM THESE CANDY-WANDIES--FER A GOIN' AWAY PRESENT!
'N I HOPE THEY GIVE YA HEARTBURN, YA BUM!
I HAVE HEARD ENOUGH!
HEY!
2

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

Second chance for high school drop-outs to get a diploma

Now you can Finish High School at home

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REED RICHARDS GAVE ME THE RESPONSIBILITY OF REPAIRING OUR HEAQUARTERS WITH THE STRONGEST MATERIAL WE CAN FIND!
AND THIS STUFF JUST ISN'T IT!
ANYTHING WEAKER WOULD PROBABLY COST US OUR LIVES!
MAN! THIS HEADQUARTERS OF THEIRS SURE TOOK ONE HECK OF A BEATING!
ANYTHING STRONGER THAN THAT WILL COST A FORTUNE, SON!
THAT'S THE LEAST OF IT, FRIEND!
IT FIGGERS! ALL THEY FOUGHT HERE THE OTHER DAY WAS SPIDER-MAN, DAREDEVIL, AND THOR!*
*LAST ISH, TO BE EXACT...REMEMBER?--SMILEY.
YOU'D MAKE IT A LOT EASIER ON YOURSELVES--AND ON US--IF YOU GENTS WOULD STICK TO FIGHTING ORDINARY CROOKS, INSTEAD OF THOSE SUPER-POWERED GOONS YOU'RE ALWAYS MIXIN' IT UP WITH!
WHAT MAKES YOU SPEND YOUR LIVES LEADING WITH YOUR CHINS THAT WAY, ANYHOW?
I SOMETIMES WONDER ABOUT IT MYSELF, MISTER!
MAYBE WE JUST FIGURE SOMEONE'S GOTTA DO IT--OR IT'S GOODBYE WORLD!
HEY, LOOK!! UP THERE! NOW WHAT'RE WE IN FOR?
GANG-WAY, KIDDIES!
AND--THE SILVER SURFER!
IT'S BEN--!
4

PLAYTIME'S OVER, JUNIOR!
WE GOT WORK TO DO!
ONCE AGAIN WE FACE THE TERRIBLE THREAT OF-- GALACTUS!!
GALACTUS?!!
YEAH! HE WANTS OL' SKIN-HEAD HERE SHOULD JOIN 'IM AGAIN!
WELL, WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT THAT?
THE SURFER'S ALWAYS SAYING HE MISSES HIS FREEDOM--HE MISSES RIDING THE SPACE-WAYS LIKE HE USED TO!
SO, LET HIM GO BACK TO GALACTUS!
TRUE! I CONSTANTLY LONG FOR THE GLORIOUS DAYS OF YORE--WHEN ALL THE WONDERS OF THE ENDLESS GALAXIES WERE MINE!
THEN WHAT'S THE BIT, BALDY? WHY THE PANIC ABOUT GALACTUS?
THAT'S RIGHT! HERE'S YOUR BIG CHANCE! SO WHAT'S THE HANG-UP?
THINK, HUMANS! THAT GALACTUS MAY LIVE-- PLANETS MUST DIE!
REMEMBER--HE FEEDS UPON THE ENERGY OF THE WORLDS--AS YOU FEED UPON EARTHLY CALORIES!
HE WOULD NOT NEED ME, UNLESS--HE IS STARVING!!
LOOK! OUT THE WINDOW--!
IT IS--THE PUNISHER!
--GUIDED TO THIS SPOT BY THE PULSATIONS OF MY OWN BODY!
PERMIT US TO QUOTE FROM FF #49: "A STRANGE, HEAVILY-ARMED BEING--HALF-ROBOT, HALF-ALIVE! THIS IS THE PUNISHER... A COMPACT, SUPREMELY MERCILESS HARD-CORE MASS OF MAYHEM, FROM THE OUTER RIM OF THE KNOWN UNIVERSE!"
AND NOW--- HERE HE COMES!
5

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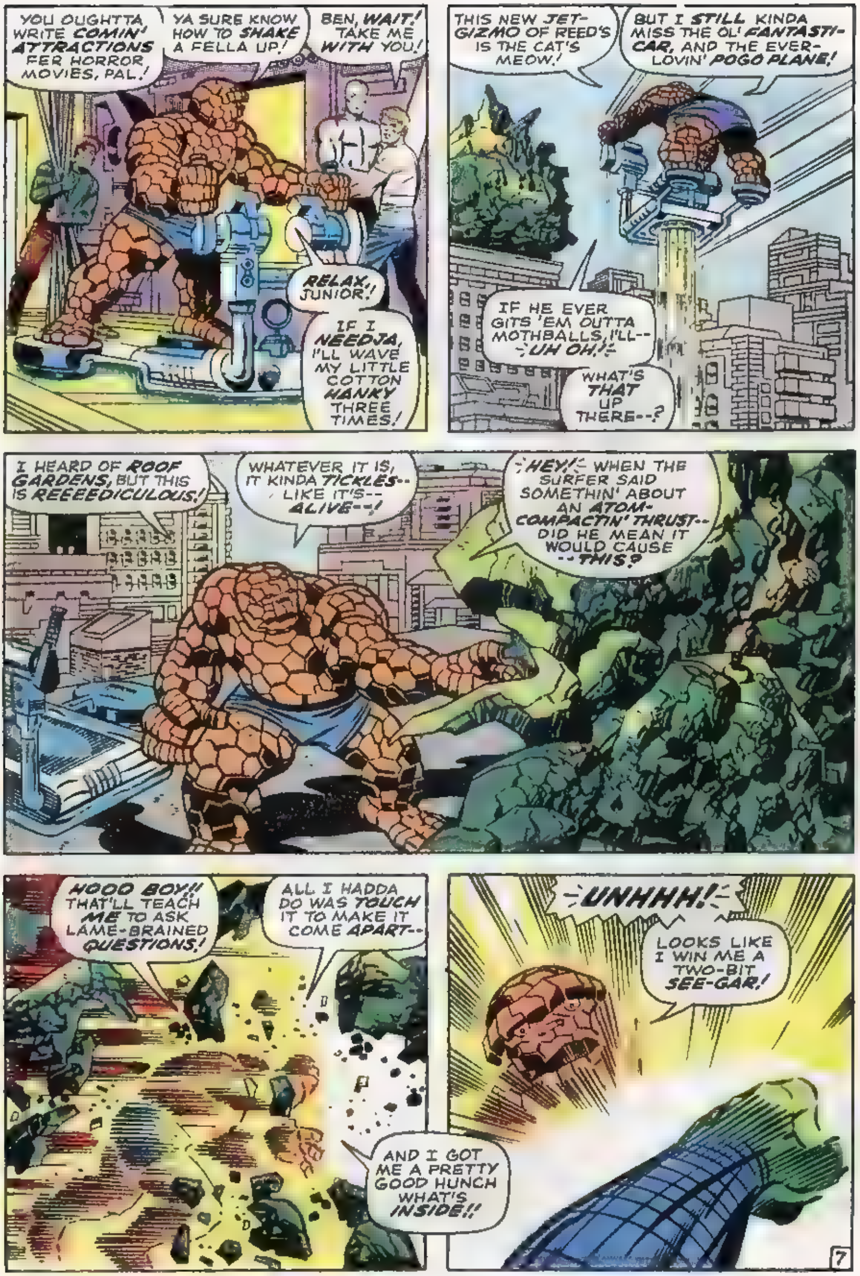
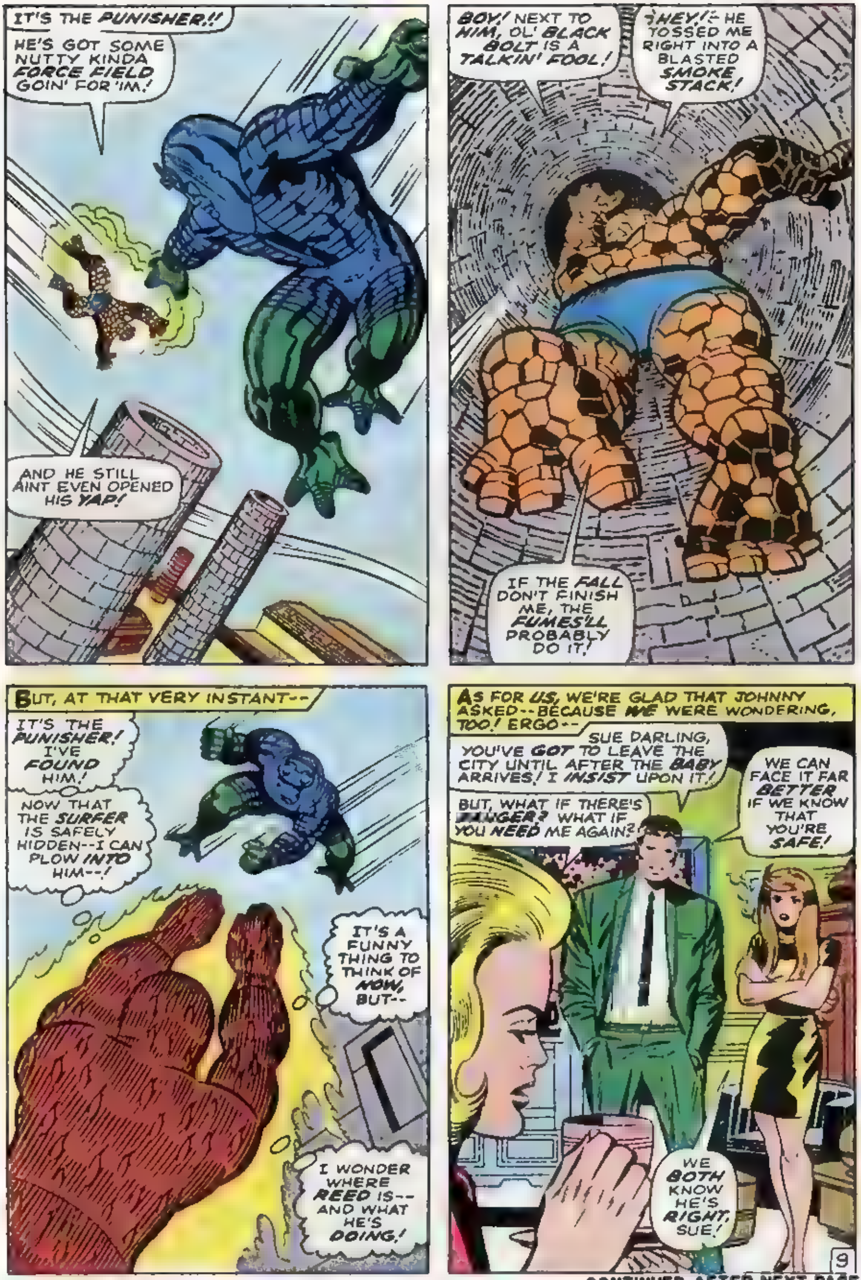


YOU OUGHTTA WRITE COMIN' ATTRACTIONS FER HORROR MOVIES, PAL.!
YA SURE KNOW HOW TO SHAKE A FELLA UP!
BEN, WAIT! TAKE ME WITH YOU!
RELAX, JUNIOR!
IF I NEEDJA, I'LL WAVE MY LITTLE COTTON HANKY THREE TIMES!
THIS NEW JET-GIZMO OF REED'S IS THE CAT'S MEOW!
BUT I STILL KINDA MISS THE OL' FANTASTI-CAR, AND THE EVER-LOVIN' POGO PLANE!
IF HE EVER GITS 'EM OUTTA MOTHBALLS, I'LL-- UH OH!
WHAT'S THAT UP THERE--?
I HEARD OF ROOF GARDENS, BUT THIS IS REEEEDICULOUS!
WHATEVER IT IS, IT KINDA TICKLES-- LIKE IT'S-- ALIVE--!
HEY! WHEN THE SURFER SAID SOMETHIN' ABOUT AN ATOM-COMPACTIN' THRUST-- DID HE MEAN IT WOULD CAUSE --THIS?
HOOO BOY!! THAT'LL TEACH ME TO ASK LAME-BRAINED QUESTIONS!
ALL I HADDA DO WAS TOUCH IT TO MAKE IT COME APART--
AND I GOT ME A PRETTY GOOD HUNCH WHAT'S INSIDE!!
UNHHH!
LOOKS LIKE I WIN ME A TWO-BIT SEE-GAR!
7

OKAY, CHARLIE-- LET'S TAKE A BREAK, HUH?
THIS AINT MY IDEA OF A FULL-TIME FUN-FEST!
SO, IF YER THRU KIDDIN' AROUND--
HOW'S ABOUT TELLIN' ME WHERE THE SURFER'S GONE TO?
YOU AINT EXACTLY A CHATTERBOX, ARE YA, CHUCKLES?
WELL, IF YA AINT GONNA TALK--
LET'S KINDA FINISH UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF--!
I GOTTA HUNCH THAT THIS IS WHAT YA WUZ TRYIN' TO DO--!
NOW DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING, MARVIN!
WHEREVER YA LAND, I WON'T LETCHA GIT TOO LONELY--
'CAUSE I'LL COME'N GITCHA ON THE FIRST BOUNCE!
BUT SUDDENLY, THE ORANGE-SKINNED POWERHOUSE FINDS HIMSELF DRAWN INTO THE AIR BY SOME STRANGE, INVISIBLE FORCE--
HEY!-- WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE--?!!
WHO'S THE BLASTED WISE-GUY??
8



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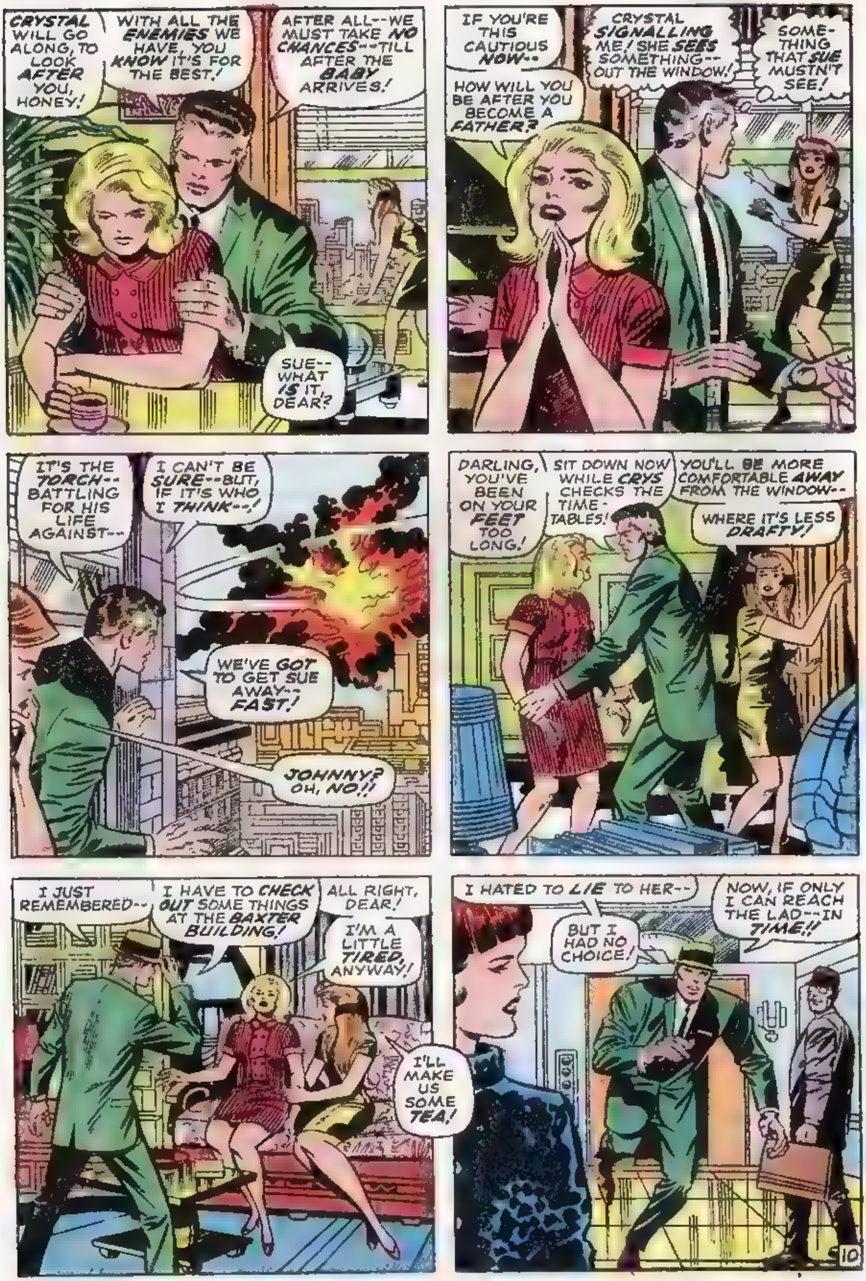
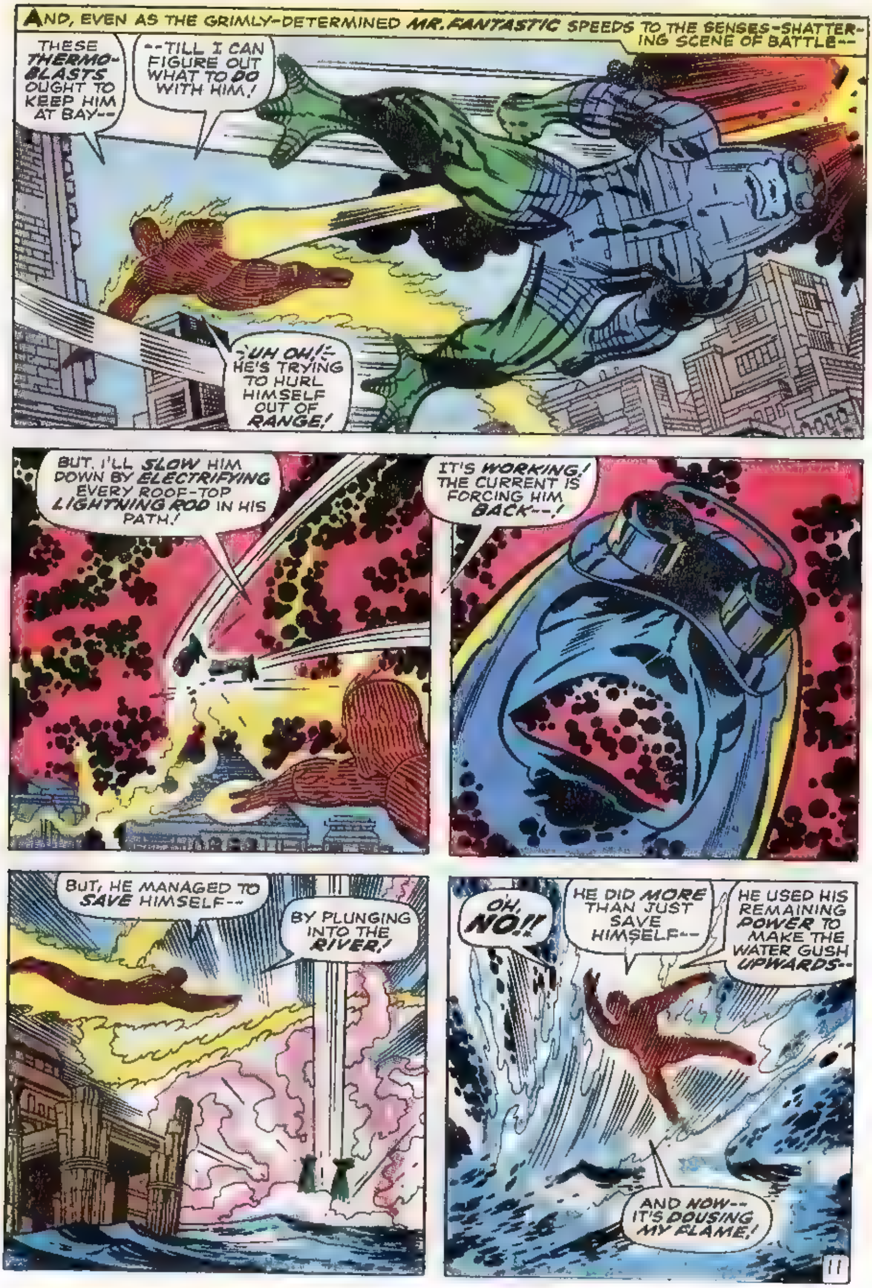


CRYSTAL WILL GO ALONG, TO LOOK AFTER YOU, HONEY!
WITH ALL THE ENEMIES WE HAVE, YOU KNOW IT'S FOR THE BEST!
AFTER ALL--WE MUST TAKE NO CHANCES--TILL AFTER THE BABY ARRIVES!
SUE--WHAT IS IT, DEAR?
IF YOU'RE THIS CAUTIOUS NOW--
HOW WILL YOU BE AFTER YOU BECOME A FATHER?
CRYSTAL SIGNALLING ME! SHE SEES SOMETHING--OUT THE WINDOW!
SOMETHING THAT SUE MUSTN'T SEE!
IT'S THE TORCH--BATTLING FOR HIS LIFE AGAINST--
I CAN'T BE SURE--BUT, IF IT'S WHO I THINK--!
WE'VE GOT TO GET SUE AWAY--FAST!
JOHNNY? OH, NO!!
DARLING, YOU'VE BEEN ON YOUR FEET TOO LONG!
SIT DOWN NOW WHILE CRYS CHECKS THE TIME-TABLES!
YOU'LL BE MORE COMFORTABLE AWAY FROM THE WINDOW--
WHERE IT'S LESS DRAFTY!
I JUST REMEMBERED--
I HAVE TO CHECK OUT SOME THINGS AT THE BAXTER BUILDING!
ALL RIGHT, DEAR!
I'M A LITTLE TIRED, ANYWAY!
I'LL MAKE US SOME TEA!
I HATED TO LIE TO HER--
BUT I HAD NO CHOICE!
NOW, IF ONLY I CAN REACH THE LAD--IN TIME!!


AND, EVEN AS THE GRIMLY-DETERMINED MR. FANTASTIC SPEEDS TO THE SENSES-SHATTERING SCENE OF BATTLE--
THESE THERMO-BLASTS OUGHT TO KEEP HIM AT BAY--
--TILL I CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH HIM!
UH OH! HE'S TRYING TO HURL HIMSELF OUT OF RANGE!
BUT, I'LL SLOW HIM DOWN BY ELECTRIFYING EVERY ROOF-TOP LIGHTNING ROD IN HIS PATH!
IT'S WORKING! THE CURRENT IS FORCING HIM BACK--!
BUT, HE MANAGED TO SAVE HIMSELF--
BY PLUNGING INTO THE RIVER!
OH, NO!!
HE DID MORE THAN JUST SAVE HIMSELF--
HE USED HIS REMAINING POWER TO MAKE THE WATER GUSH UPWARDS--
AND NOW-- IT'S DOUSING MY FLAME!
11

BUT, REALIZING HOW GRAVE THE DANGER IS, HELP IS ALREADY ON THE WAY--IN THE FRANTIC, FAST-MOVING FORM OF--MR. FANTASTIC--!
CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT FOR A BUS!
NOT IF JOHNNY'S BATTLING THE ONE I THINK HE IS!
I WAS RIGHT!
IT'S THE PUNISHER!
AND I'M NOT A SECOND TOO SOON!
MY FIRST JOB IS TO GET THE BOY TO SAFETY!
SWOOSSH
JOHNNY'S ALL RIGHT--JUST STUNNED!
EVEN THE HUMAN TORCH CAN'T BE EXPECTED TO HOLD OFF A HALF-ROBOT BEING FROM OUTER SPACE--
ESPECIALLY SINCE HE WAS CREATED BY GALACTUS HIMSELF!
BUT, IF THE PUNISHER IS HERE, IT MEANS THAT GALACTUS HAS RETURNED, AS WELL!
HEADS UP! NO MORE TIME FOR DAY-DREAMING!
HE'S LAUNCHING HIS ATTACK!!
12

WHUFFF!
LUCKILY, MY BODY CAN ABSORB HIS CHARGE!
NOW, IF I CAN JUST KEEP HIM SNARLED UP--!
IT'S NO GOOD! --HE'S MUCH TOO POWERFUL!!
HE'S TWISTING ME AROUND LIKE A RUBBER BAND!
GALACTUS-- DESIGNED HIM-- WELL!
NO LIVING BEING--COULD STRIKE--WITH SUCH SPEED --SUCH LIMITLESS FORCE--!
I HAVEN'T-- THE POWER-- TO DEFEAT HIM!
SKRUTCH!
BUT-- I MUST-- HOLD ON! --CAN'T GIVE UP!
MUST-- FIND SOME WAY-- TO STOP HIM--!
13

MEANWHILE, IN THE REMOTE, UNCHARTED VASTNESS BETWEEN THE GALAXIES--
--AN AWESOME SPACE-CRAFT CARRIES THE MOST SUPREMELY DESTRUCTIVE FIGURE IN THE KNOWN UNIVERSE ON HIS NEVER-ENDING MISSION OF SURVIVAL--
BUT, ALAS--IN ORDER FOR GALACTUS TO SURVIVE--ENTIRE PLANETS MUST PERISH!
MY JOURNEYING HAS BEEN IN VAIN!
EACH STAR I VISIT IS BARREN!
SAVE FOR THE PLANET EARTH--, THIS SECTOR SEEMS WOEFULLY DEVOID OF LIFE!
BUT, GALACTUS CAN WAIT NO LONGER!
WITHOUT THE NOURISHMENT OF A LIVING PLANET-- I DIE!
AND GALACTUS MUST NEVER PERISH!
14

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writes Carl B. Rudd, Jr. Exceptional Blair Dealer of Ohio

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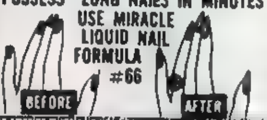

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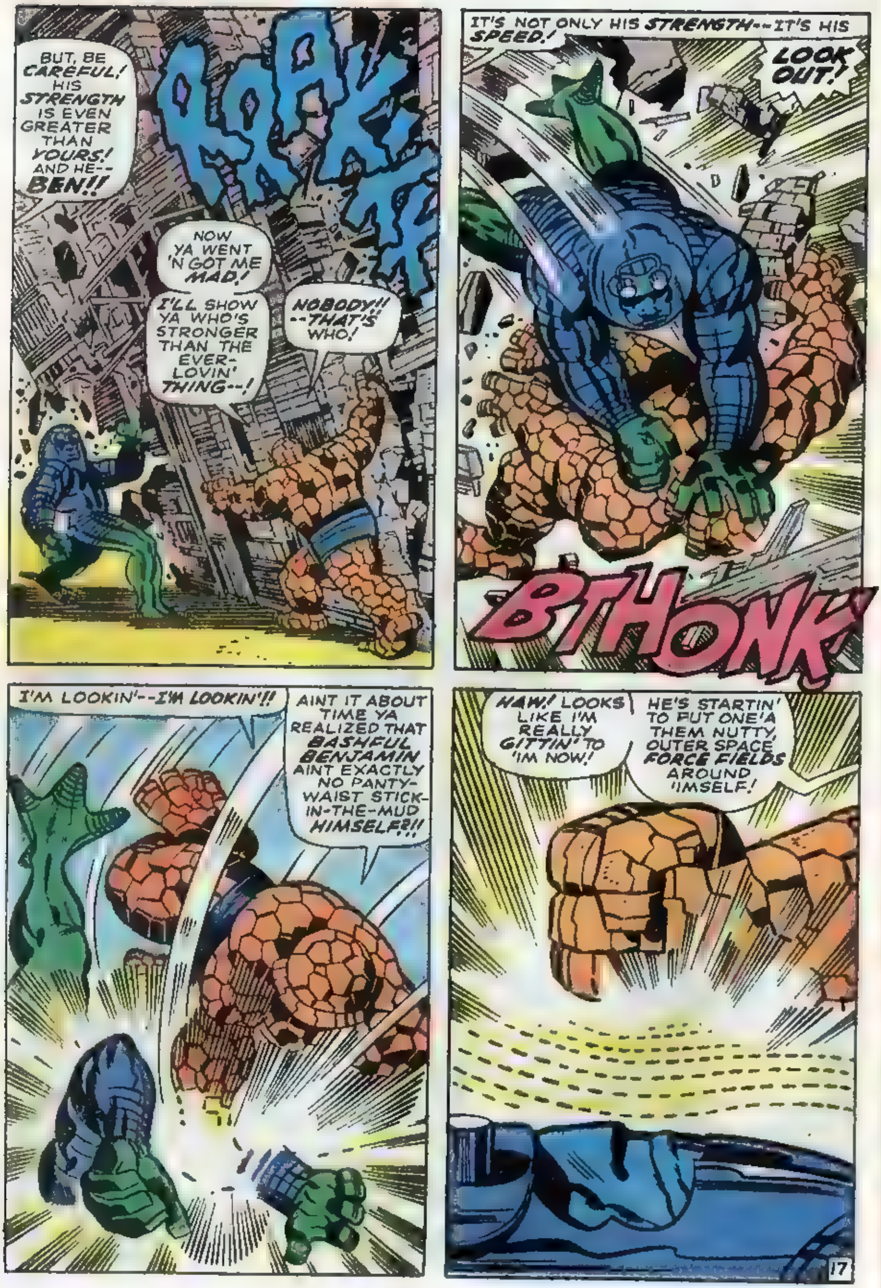
WHAT'S THAT THUMPING BEHIND THE WALL?
I DUNNO--BUT WE'D BETTER CHECK IT OUT!
I'LL SAVE YA THE TROUBLE, KIDDIES!
I JUST FELL INTO THAT BLASTED CHIMINEY O' YOURS!
I'D'A WAITED TILL YA FOUND ME--BUT THE SMOKE WUZ TICKLIN' MY NOSY-PIE!
NOW MOVE IT! I GOT PLACES TO GO!
SAY! AREN'T YOU--THE THING?!!
NAW, I'M THE WIZARD OF OZ--LOOKIN' FER THE NAUGHTY WITCH!
PUT YER EYES BACK IN YER HEAD AND 'LEMME GIT IN THAT THERE HEAP--!
HEAD FER THE PUNISHER--'N DON'T SPARE THE HORSES!
I--DON'T KNOW ANYTHING--ABOUT A PUNISHER--BUT SOMETHING'S HAPPENING AT THE WATERFRONT!
THE POLICE ARE TRYING TO ROPE OFF THE AREA!
THEN THAT MUST BE WHERE HE'S AT!
LET'S GO!!
AND GO THEY DO--UNTIL--
IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!!
BEN! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU NOW, OLD TIMER!
THAT'S MORE THAN LAUGHIN' BOY OVER THERE IS GONNA SAY!!
16


BUT, BE CAREFUL! HIS STRENGTH IS EVEN GREATER THAN YOURS! AND HE-- BEN!!
NOW YA WENT 'N GOT ME MAD!
I'LL SHOW YA WHO'S STRONGER THAN THE EVER-LOVIN' THING--!
NOBODY!! --THAT'S WHO!
IT'S NOT ONLY HIS STRENGTH--IT'S HIS SPEED!
LOOK OUT!
BTHONK
I'M LOOKIN'--I'M LOOKIN'!!
AINT IT ABOUT TIME YA REALIZED THAT BASHFUL BENJAMIN AINT EXACTLY NO PANTY-WAIST STICK-IN-THE-MUD HIMSELF?!!
HAW! LOOKS LIKE I'M REALLY GITTIN' TO 'IM NOW!
HE'S STARTIN' TO PUT ONE'A THEM NUTTY, OUTER SPACE FORCE FIELDS AROUND 'IMSELF!
17

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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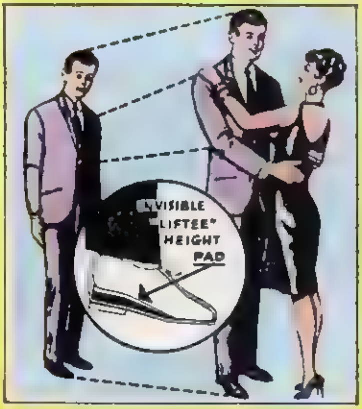

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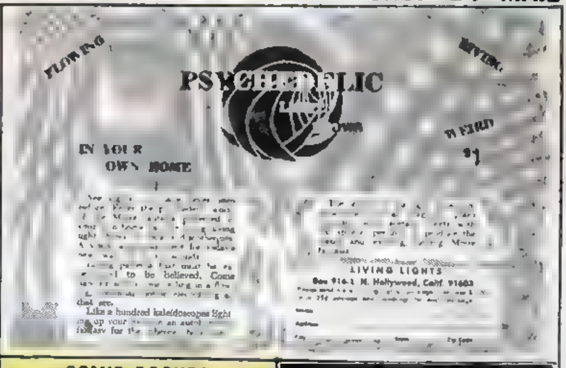

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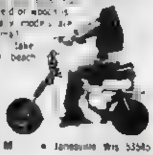

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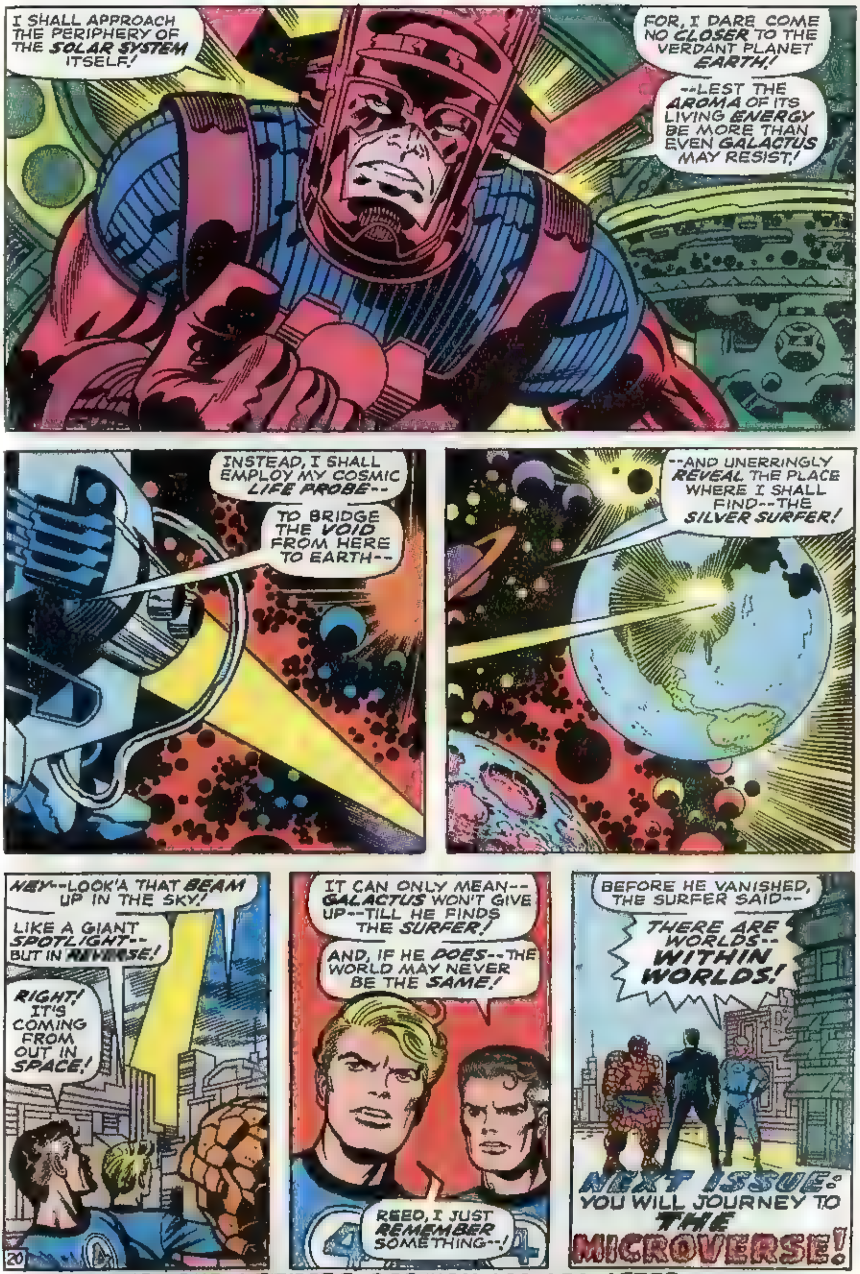
HE WOULD NEVER HAVE BROKEN OFF THE FIGHT HIMSELF--
THAT MEANS HIS MASTER CALLED HIM BACK AGAIN! --BUT, WHY??
WHO CARES? HE MIGHT'A WANTED HIS BACK SCRATCHED!
GALACTUS ISN'T INTERESTED IN US!
HE SENT THE PUNISHER TO FIND HIS FORMER HERALD!
AND HE PROBABLY RECALLED HIM WHEN HE REALIZED THE SURFER IS TOO WELL HIDDEN!
SO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
THE NEXT MOVE--IS UP TO--GALACTUS!
AND, EVEN AS REED RICHARDS SPEAKS--
THE PUNISHER ZOOMS ACROSS, AROUND, AND BETWEEN THE ENDLESS GALAXIES, UNTIL--
BACK TO YOUR CUBICLE, FAITHFUL ONE--
IT IS TIME FOR GALACTUS TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE!
19



NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE...

HERE IT IS! PROOF POSITIVE THAT THE BIGGEST BRAINS AT MARVEL ---DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING!

ITEM! Now that you're starting to recover from the sensational shock of seeing CAPTAIN AMERICA and the incredible HULK in their own magnificent mags—hold tight! Here comes the next dazzling development in the Second Golden Age of Marvel—! On sale right now you'll find three (count 'em, THREE') more titanic titles to boot you out of your tree! You guessed it—IRON MAN and SUB MARINER have just been awarded full-length, monthly mags of their own—and adventuredom will never be the same! You know how valuable a first edition of any other Marvel masterpiece would be today...such as the first edition of FANTASTIC FOUR, or the Amazing SPIDER MAN .. well, just imagine how much IRON MAN #1 and SUB-MARINER #1 will be worth after you've kept them for a while! One thing you can't even begin to imagine is the excitement, drama, and suspense we've jam-packed into each gala premiere ish! So, why waste time with any more chatter? They're on sale now! They're great! Get em!

ITEM! But, we mentioned THREE new titles, didn't we? (Thought we goofed again, huh? Nyahh!) Well, here's the other one you've been eagerly awaiting—possibly the biggest, fastest smash-hit to come along since NOT BRAND ECHH. So overwhelming has been the reaction to the new star of MARVEL SUPERHEROES, that we've been forced to give none other than CAPTAIN MARVEL his own full-length monthly mag—starting now! Yessir, he's on sale at this very minute, proving once again that what a Marvel fan wants—he GETS! And even THAT isn't all! Read on, rapscallion—

ITEM! We had to do something with MARVEL SUPERHEROES since we kicked C. M. upstairs and do something we did! We've decided to use this giant-sized, 25¢ bi monthly mag as a vehicle for experimentation, and for presenting the most off-beat strips of all, both old and new. So, just for starters, we're featuring a brand-new, never-before-presented, full-length adventure of SPIDER-MAN in the issue of MARVEL SUPERHEROES which is now on sale! However—it's a different type of Spider Man—drawn by a different artist—just as an experiment. We couldn't decide what to do with it—so, instead of keeping it hidden on a shelf, we thought we'd present it to you and see what you think. The story line is somewhat offbeat and not the usual Spidey adventure, and it's—shh, why bother! You'll see for yourself in M.S.H. #14!

ITEM! And, speaking of new titles, maniacal Marvel has put together a totally different type of publication, just for a lark! It's a hilarious, laugh-packed illustrated joke book called "GROOVY"! It's on sale now, for no more than the price of any other comic mag—and if laughter's your bag, we urge you to grab a copy. But now, on to other subjects, before you start thinking that we're in this biz for the money!

ITEM! Once again we've received a letter in which we thought all of Marveldom might be interested. So, without any further ado—

> Dear Bullpen, I want to compliment all you guys for the great entertainment your mags bring to the invalids and the ill in our nation's hospitals. Being a volunteer worker at a hospital in Philly, I know how lonely some of the patients are, so I gather up all of my doubles and distribute them among the patients. Unfortunately, I've only enough for one floor, so I'm asking all kids with any extra Marvels to bring them to the nearest hospital if they want to make a lot of patients happy. Thanks from myself and the many patients for the hours of enjoyment you furnish. Sincerely,
>
> Josh Zissman
> 6716 N. 17th St. R Phila., Pa

Our thanks to you, Josh, for a most worthwhile gesture and a grand idea. May we suggest that all our friends bring Marvel mags—or indeed, ANY worthwhile periodicals—to the nearest hospital as often as possible. You may not get a medal, but it's things like that which make life just a little bit nicer for others—and isn't that really what it's all about?

MORE SURPRISES next ish—plus the final rank of Marveldom for you to memorize and treasure fore'er! But now, since we're running plumb outta room, let's bow our heads for the nonce and think tidy thoughts, as we get into the mood for our sermon of the month, delivered as usual by our grinnin' guru—Smilin' Stan himself—!

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

We TOLD you that Marvel would make 68 the year of the big changes, the big excitement, and the big surprises! Well, believe it or not, there's still more in store for you! We've another couple of new titles to announce on this page next ish—and still more unexpected goodies to dangle before you as the months speed by! It's all part of a promise, a pledge we made a long time ago, when we vowed to continually improve the quality of comic magazines—to make you proud to be a Marvelite. (Incidentally, didja know that more than a dozen college professors thruout America now use Marvel mags in their English Litt. courses as supplemental material? It's only a start—but we're getting there, gang!) Anyway, we're presently working on a totally new magazine, one which may completely change the whole complexion of the comic book format. We expect it to be the most sensational success since Marvel itself first burst upon the public awareness with the impact of an H-bomb! Watch for clues in the months to come, and till we meet again—let's be good to each other. There's gotta be SOME hope for a race that keeps reaching for the stars! —*Smiley*

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

NOT BRAND ECHH #7: So hilarious that it's still on sale! We don't want anyone to miss the hysterical ORIGIN OF THE FANTASTICAL FOUR—or the brain-blasting ORIGIN OF STUPORMAN! But hurry—there aren't many left!

SPIDER-MAN #60: Have you ever had one of those days when everything goes wrong? Well, when it happens to you or me, so what? But when it happens to SPIDEY—while he's engaged in a life-or-death battle with the craven KINGPIN—look out!

AVENGERS #51: GOLIATH regains his growing power! THOR battles IRON MAN! The macabre COLLECTOR tries once more to add the AVENGERS to his trophy case! It all adds up to action, loyal one—and we did it just for you!

X-MEN #43: With PROFESSOR X dead, and the new leaderless X-MEN at their lowest ebb—MAGNETO strikes! This drama-drenched powerhouse is an absolute must for all mutant-watchers! 'Nuff said!

DAREDEVIL #39: This is what you've been clamoring for! A new, truly unforgettable arch-villain named the EXTERMINATOR! (And it's not hard to guess why!) Plus, the return of APE MAN, BIRD MAN, and CAT MAN! All that and DD too! How lucky can ya be?

THOR #151: At last! The mightiest hero of all regains his matchless power during the most dramatic sequence you've ever thrilled to! But, it looks as though it may be too late to gain a vital victory over the DESTROYER—and, wouldja believe—ULIK!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #101: We're so excited about this one, we can hardly get the words out! Remember the almost legendary tale of the THREE SLEEPERS? Well, it seems there was a FOURTH—and, not only that—the RED SKULL lives again! Don't dare miss it!

INCREDIBLE HULK #103: The HULK returns to earth and discovers his last living friend, RICK JONES, has turned against him! Then, at his lowest ebb, he must face the most awesome menace of all—the SPACE PARASITE!

IRON MAN #1: In this pulse-pounding premiere issue, Shellhead stops an attempt by AIM to duplicate his armor—and at last unmasks the Maggia's loathsome leader, BIG M! Plus, the ORIGIN of IRON MAN! It's too much!

SUB-MARINER #1: At last, the long-awaited "ORIGIN OF SUB-MARINER!"—along with the senses-shattering secret of Subby's amnesia-plagued years! This has to be the most eagerly-anticipated Marvel premiere ever!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #1: Now, in his own magniloquent mag, CAPTAIN MARVEL locks horns with the senses-shattering SENTRY in a titanic, twenty-page epic you'll never forget! At least, we hope not!

STRANGE TALES #168: JIMMY WOO becomes a full-fledged agent of SHIELD while battling a monstrous new menace—and DOC STRANGE battles YANDROTH for the fateful, final time! This one's for action-lovers only!

SGT. FURY #53: In their most deadly mission yet, the HOWLERS go for broke to capture Hitler's right-hand man from an invincible fortress in the Bavarian Alps! It's the biggest battle mag blockbuster of 'em all!

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Rod Kirby, Baton Rouge, La.
Chris Russell, Indianapolis, Ind.
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Jerry Jaffe, Lambertville, Mich.
Tom Tanner, Richmond, Va.
Ricky Varges, Wilder, Ind.
Kris Lemmon, Long Grove, Ill.
Mike Reed, Paducah, Ky.
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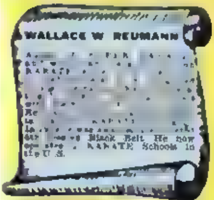

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[illegible] Magazine says "... bare fisted violence"

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Fantastic Four (4) Fan Page

Send letters to: LEE and KIRBY
THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP
SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AV
NEW YORK 10022 N. Y.

Dear Stan and Jack,

We are all avid readers of Marvel Comics and adore the Thing and Hulk and Thor, but recently in one of your issues we met someone who surpassed them all, our ideal superhero, the most exquisite being of all time, a veritable dream — and you had to go and send him to another milenium. We are referring to Him! He! The one who came out of the cocoon in F.F. #67! Please, please, either send a Marvel reporter out after him or bring him back to earth. We must have a sight of this handsome blonde again!

Ann Bruton, Valerie Saville, Wendy Pope,
Barbara Noyes, Mary Ainsley,
1, Sundia Lane, Great Barr, Birmingham 22a, England

And well you may, Him watchers (He watchers?)! We can't say for certain just when he'll make it back, though — 'cause we understand jet service from those far-flung other dimensions to our own isn't all that it *might* be! Not to mention the fact that they don't offer reduced fares to superheroes! Anyway, stay with us — and watch for Him to return when you (and we) least expect it!

Dear Stan and Jack,

The fact remains. What is happening to the Fantastic Four? I'll tell you what's happening — they are missing something. What are they missing? That is the 64 dollar question. Could it be action? If so, what kind of action? Ever since issue #62 the F.F. have been going down in ratings. THE FANTASTIC FOUR is going to the dogs. I believe it has too much mush. "Mush", in a dictionary, is a soft, wet mess. The F.F. are not using their powers as often as they used to. What I also am trying to say is that they are falling apart at the seams. At first the F.F. were reacting like a typical American family, but now it is becoming another soap opera where the only action in the whole mag is when the Thing is complaining about something or when the Torch flames on. Why don't you throw in some action like using brawn instead of brain once in a while, or try some villains of the past? Maybe, just maybe, they'll hit the top again.

Mitchell Klein, 1029-27th St.
Two Rivers, Wisc. 54241

Could be, Mitch — but, to tell you the truth, we didn't know they'd fallen off in the *first* place! Be that as it may, we'll keep your suggestions in mind and see what we can do to get you back into the F.F. swing of things! At least *now* we know we'd better forget that story we were gonna build around Lockjaw's having puppies!

Dear Stan and Jack,

How many lives does Dr. Doom have? He's been killed so many times that I've lost track. First he was shrunk into nothingness. Then he was on an asteroid heading for a[n] exploding sun. Then he fell to earth from an airplane a[t] least 20,000 miles high. Then he flew up into space fol-lowing a device made up by Reed Richards. And now he's back to menace poor ol' Daredevil. I don't have a grudg[e] against Doom, but if a guy get's killed, he gets killed, and that's all there is to it. Even though he is the greates[t] villain in the entire world, let's face it — we all have t[o] go sometime. So let's do things sensibly and either kil[l] him or not kill him. Well, I'd better go now as I thin[k] I've made you guys mad enough!

George Jessen, 616 John S[t.]
Teaneck, N.J. 07666

A group of good-natured gollums like us? *Never*! Fact of the matter is, we think you've made a pretty good point! The only problem is, who ever came righ[t] out and said Doc Doom was dead? We might have le[d] you to think he'd gone to that great super-villain haven in the sky — but we never actually spelled it out! Thi[s] much we'll guarantee you, though! If and when w[e] ever *do* decide to lay him to rest — we'll let you kno[w] where to send the flowers! Fair 'nuff? Fair 'nuff!

Dear Stan and Jack,

It seems that most of your readers are ignorant of th[e] power of the superior Kree race. They seem to think tha[t] the Supreme Intelligence and his representative, Ronar[n] have been defeated by the comparatively insignifican[t] power of the F.F. We, the "fifth column" of the Kree i[n] this solar system, know otherwise. The Supreme Intel-ligence will not tolerate underdeveloped races defying hi[s] indestructible and everlasting will. Our friends shall re-turn, perhaps in greater numbers, and the F.F. will pa[y] for their crimes. Glory to the almighty Supreme Intel-ligence!

Steve Rouzer, 216 Manse R[d.]
Hagerstown, Md.

That's *exactly* what we've been thinking, Stevering[o]! And that's exactly why we dreamed up our newes[t] way-out wonder, Captain Marvel! When you said th[e] S.I.'s boys would return, you weren't just whistlin[g] "When the Kree Come Marching In!" But, just in cas[e] you just arrived on earth and haven't yet been in-troduced to Cap — we advise that you rush to th[e] nearest newsstand (earth's equivalent of the Kreetian solar-powered mag vendor) and latch onto CAPTAIN MARVEL #1! It's a power-packed premiere issue tha[t] you *dare not miss*! Believe us, the Supreme Intel-ligence would really be uptight if you did!

Dear Stan and Jack,

F.F. #70 had one of the all-time great comic sequence[s]. The police raid on the Mad Thinker's headquarters wit[h] Reed and Johnny will be remembered by this fan a lon[g] time. Likewise, Reed's speech on page 12. These speeche[s] add something to the story. And the Kirby-Sinnott figh[t] scenes were typical of the high quality art we have com[e] to expect in the F.F. Finally, the final panel was in th[e] tradition of the old cliff-hangers. The only ones I ca[n] think of that equal it were: AVENGERS #19 which ha[d] Cap falling off a skyscraper, the current SHIELD wi[th] Fury strapped to the Yellow Claw's weapon, and DARE-DEVIL #35 with DD about to swing into the Baxte[r] Building and blow himself and Sue to kingdom com[e]. Speeches, thrills, action, and cliff-hangers are all part [of] the Marvel formula, which is my way of saying that I'v[e] enjoyed every moment of my six year relationship wi[th] you and I look forward to another sixty years with yo[u]. Keep up the great work.

Tony Isabella, 11203 Peony-Av[e.]
Cleveland, Ohio 44111

Sure, Ton — but would it be okay if we do it for [at] least *61 years*? We hate being stuck to a *definite* deadline!

Now hear this! Please keep all letters no longer than ONE PAGE! Have mercy, mellow ones!

Dear Stan and Jack,

I have been reading and enjoying your tantalizing tales for True Believers for about a year and a half now, ever since I was shown the light by an article in ESQUIRE magazine. My favorites are the F.F. and Spidey. I'm amazed by how you continuously produce both a great plot line and manage to create characters as realistic as most novelists. The current tale of the Fantastic Four in issues #68 through #70 is one of the best ever done. The alienation and frustrations felt by the beleaguered Ben Grimm are exemplary of those felt by many in our society who fail to measure up to established norms. Two requests before I end my missive of praise — bring back Dr. Doom and try to get Spidey and the F.F. together for an adventure. Well, till Honest Irv gets drafted, make mine Marvel.

Bill Fox, 305 Tener Hall, Penn State University
University Park, Pa. 16802

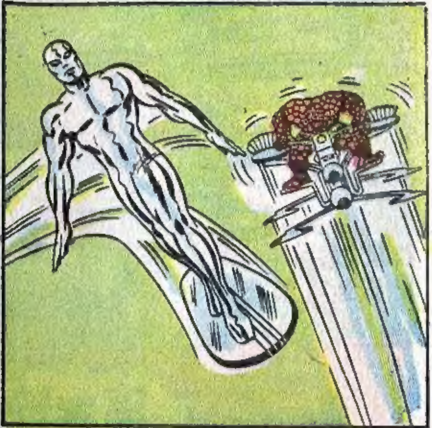
You talked us into it, Bill — and if we wait around for old 4-F Forbush to get his greetings, we figure we should be able to keep making yours Marvel for at least another few hundred years! Anyway, we're certain you caught Spidey's little guest stint in last month's ish — and you know Doc Doom will be back just as surely as the Silver Surfer could out hot-dog any hodaddy at Malibu blindfolded! In other words, hang in there, hero — 'cause you know that nobody socks it to you like the House of Ideas!

Dear Stan and Jack,

A critic of any type of art, whether theatrical, video, or, in this case, illustrated literature, must have some basic form to present ideas and thoughts concerning the work in question. As with a novel, play, or comic strip, the review should have a beginning, some sort of substantial filling, and an adequate summation. There is one advantage for the critic of comic art and literature, and that is that he may read the piece that he intends to review, returning to specific panels or captions which particularly caught his attention the first time around. I've read just about every Marvel Comic, I suppose, since the first issue of the F.F., and the one complaint that most critics have about TV series has yet to materialize with the Marvel Comics Group. Many television reviewers complain that after a show has been on a year or two, it turns into a monotonous repetition which offers nothing new or stimulating to the medium; but the heads of Marvel have been foresighted enough to avoid that pitfall. Stan Lee has introduced Roy Thomas, aspiring on his own efforts with such triumphs as the AVENGERS SPECIAL, and Jim Steranko has brought back the era of the forties, the special flavor of the continued serial. And Jack Kirby has continually improved in artwork since the first F.F. appeared. Sue Richards, Crystal and Alicia look more lovely than ever, and Jack even draws feet more realistically than ever before! F.F. #70 — "When Falls the Mighty" — in many ways confirms all that I've just said. The cover, black and grey shadows framing the foreground, was a typical Kirbyesque cover with one additional feature: Sue Storm was the prominent member portrayed. The artwork, especially that of Reed Richards in the first panel on page 2, was as capable as usual. Stan's script, following his unique style which brought reality to the comic book, had all of the insight into character, motivation, and the other Stan Lee extras that are his trademark. The conclusion of his chapter was a nicely done cliff-hanger, but you won't make this reviewer believe for a moment that Ben Grimm is dead. I don't care how many times you tell us that it is going to have a most unusual ending. But, be that as it may, issue #70 illustrates the fact quite graphically that the F.F. and Marvel have not grown stagnant, and that they're always willing to try a little daring where others fear to tread. Is that any way to run a comic magazine? You bet it is!

Donald McGregor, 43 Wildwood Ave.
Providence, R.I. 02907

From the depths of our humble hearts, we thank thee, Donald — but are you sure you're not really Bosley Crowther? The only way we'll know for sure is if you drop us a line on your views of *Bonnie and Clyde!* So get to your typewriter and start pounding! The suspense is killing us!



Dear Stan and Jack,

I have just finished F.F. #70. I will not try to describe it! It was beyond description! At first, I was stunned by the android's appearance on the cover, and then I spied the three males sprawled on the floor! Could this be — Ben and Reed possibly dead, with Sue alone to face the android? I instantly read every word in the book! It truly was the best comic I've ever read and ever hope to read — until next ish! One question — how, when Johnny flames on, does he keep from burning up his clothes? If they were asbestos, how could the flame come through his clothes so he could flame on? That's all, except to ask why do some people use so many exclamation marks?!

Ron Yahne, 3009 Lanark Rd.
Rapid City, S.D.

Simple, Ron! After reading comics for years, as you no doubt have, it kind of becomes a habit! After all, did'ja ever see a sentence in a Marvel mag that *didn't* end with an exclamation point — unless it was a question? Okay, we *know* you wanna know why, so we'll shoot it to you straight! It's just a little style trait we use because we think exclamation marks have a lot more pizazz than a common, ordinary period! There, now that we've cleared up that little bit, we find our weary little brains just can't come up with an explanation on Torchy's flamin' threads — so whaddaya say we leave it up to Marveldom Assembled to give us a hand? We'll even give a no-prize for the best answer! (Phew! Even in this hour of utter exhaustion, you gotta admit we're still the most generous Bullpen this side of the New York Mets'!)

NEXT

HANG LOOSE, HERO! WAIT'LL YOU SEE *WHERE* THE SURFER IS HIDING!!

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Some of the people the Famous Artists have helped

Carl Kock was an 18-year-old apprentice in a Chicago art studio when he enrolled. Today he prepares ads for such companies as General Motors and Firestone—has won five gold medals.

Howard Sanden of Minneapolis took the Course while still in high school. He is now a successful artist—recently he and his wife traveled through Europe and the Middle East on important art assignments.

Paul Sullivan enrolled at 11. His Famous Artists training helped him work his way through college.

Kathleen Gironda of Indiana, Pennsylvania, was an 18-year-old salesgirl in a department store. She still works for a department store, but now it's as an advertising artist and fashion illustrator.

With Famous Artists training James Ryan, formerly a clerk, has become an illustrator at Hughes Aircraft—and turns out a steady stream of well-paying free-lance artwork in his spare time.

Oregon housewife Helen Tryk lives 150 miles from the nearest big city. But she does fashion illustration, has her own studio, runs an art work shop, does portraits.

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It started over 18 years ago when a group of America's most successful artists—men like Albert Dorne, Norman Rockwell, Jon Whitcomb, Al Parker and Stevan Dohanos—met in New York City. They knew that all over America there were people who liked to draw who could be turned into good artists. Albert Dorne asked, "Why can't we give these people the training they need—including all the trade secrets and know-how we've learned over the years?"

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